REMARKS

Claims 1 through 5 and 10 through 17 are pending in this application. Claims 6 through 9 and 18 through 45 stand withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Claims 1 through 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The undersigned notes with appreciation the Examiner's suggestion as to the correction to Claim 1, line 6. The Examiner's suggestion has been adopted in the amended Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that there is proper antecedent basis for all terms following use of the article, "the". Lastly, the undersigned notes with appreciation the Examiner's suggestion as to the correction to Claim 1, line 9. The Examiner's suggestion has been adopted in the amended Claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is believed to have been fully addressed. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

The undersigned notes that the claims are indicated as being allowable pending the amendment necessary to address the 112 rejection. The rejection is believed to have been appropriately addressed. Favorable action toward the allowance of pending Claims 1 through 5 and 10 through 17 is respectfully requested and the issuance of Letters Patent thereon earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

for Applicant(s)

Thomas R. Trempus, Esq.

Alcoa Inc.

Alcoa Technical Center

100 Technical Drive

Alcoa Center, PA 15069-0001

PHONE:

(724) 337-2771 FAX: (724) 337-5959

TRT:lcs

2